

REDESCRIPTION OF *CHEIRACANTHIUM MILDEI*
L. KOCH, A RECENT SPIDER IMMIGRANT
FROM EUROPE

BY ELIZABETH B. BRYANT
Museum of Comparative Zoology

The fauna of New England has often been compared to that of Great Britain, which has about the same area. Dr. B. J. Kaston in his recent book, "The Spiders of Connecticut", 1948, states that 644 species of spiders have been recognized in New England, and that 72 of these are common to Europe. Some are endemic, but others have been introduced by commerce. In the summer of 1949, a spider carrying a cocoon of eggs and new to our fauna, was brought to the museum by Dr. A. M. Chickering. It proved to be *Cheiracanthium mildei* L. Koch, a species native to southern Europe.

The genus is known in Europe by 34 species and previously in North America by only one, *Cheiracanthium inclusum* (Hentz), found from New England south to Florida and the islands of the Caribbean. *Cheiracanthium mildei* was first described from Meran, Dalmatia, in 1864. It has subsequently been reported from Switzerland, Hungary, the Caucasus and Palestine. Since 1949, when the female mentioned above was recognized, additional specimens of both sexes have been found in Connecticut and New York, indicating that the species is established in our area.

I wish to express here my thanks to Dr. W. J. Gertsch, of the American Museum of Natural History, to whom we are indebted for the gift of a pair of this species taken at New Rochelle, New York, June, 1947.

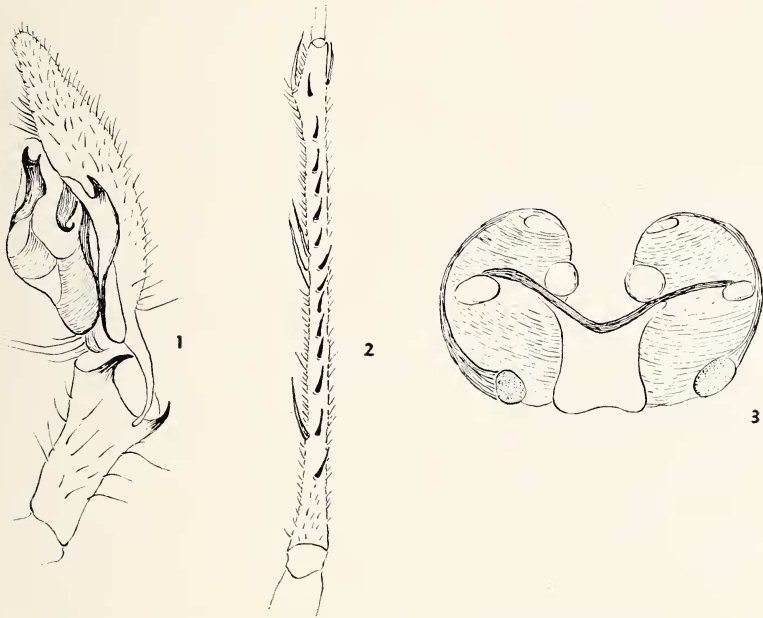
Cheiracanthium mildei L. Koch

Figures 1-3

Cheiracanthium mildei L. Koch, 1864, p. 144. "♂ ♀ in sudlichen Tirol (Meran) in Dalmatien, (Sammlung des Herrn Grafen Keyserling)".

Female: Length, 7.0 mm., ceph. 3.0 mm. long, 2.5 mm. wide, abd. 4.6 mm. long, 3.1 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax pale yellow, anterior margin truncate, about half the greatest width, moderately high, no thoracic groove but the area slightly darker and called by Simon a "false groove"; *eyes* subequal, anterior row slightly recurved, eyes equidistant, posterior row a little longer than the anterior, procurved, eyes equidistant, lateral eyes



Figs. 1-3, *Cheiracanthium mildei*. Fig. 1. Left palpus, retrolateral view. Fig. 2. Fourth metatarsus, ventral view. Fig. 3. Epigynum, ventral view.

separated by a radius; *quadrangle* of median eyes narrower in front and as high as wide behind; *clypeus* below a.m.e. about equal to a radius of a.m.e.; *mandibles* vertical, large, fang groove oblique, lower margin with three contiguous teeth; *labium* wider than long; *maxillae* twice as long as the labium with the tips widened; *sternum* pale, smooth, convex, longer than wide, (5.0:4.1); *abdomen* pale, oval,

convex, with no markings; *legs*, 1-2-4-3, pale, spines weak and inconspicuous, 1 pair, tibia, ventral, 2, median, metatarsus longer than the tibia, spines, ventral, 2 at the base, II pair, tibia, ventral, 2 at the base, metatarsus, 2 at the base; *epigynum*, area wider than long, divided about the middle by a transverse dark chitinized curved ridge, the anterior half with a pair of widely separated oval depressions, the posterior half divided by parallel vertical dark lines into a broad median septum with the extreme lateral margins ending in small circular sacs below the surface, as figured.

According to the late Dr. de Lessert of Geneva, Switzerland, the epigynum is often filled with a resin that obscures the various parts, but the transverse ridge is distinct.

Male: Length, 7.0 mm., ceph. 3.1 mm. long, 2.5 mm. wide, abd. 4.5 mm. long, 2.2 mm. wide.

Cephalothorax pale, with short hairs, quite flat, anterior margin less than half the greatest width, thoracic groove faintly indicated; *eyes* as in the female; *clypeus* less than a radius of a.m.e.; *mandibles* ventral, long and narrow, teeth on the fang groove as in the female; *labium* as in the female; *maxillae* emarginate on the outer side; *sternum* as in the female; *abdomen* pale, oval; *legs*, 1-2-4-3, pale, spines black and conspicuous, 1 pair, femur, dorsal, median, 2, prolateral, 1, tibia, ventral, 2-2-2-2, metatarsus, 2, basal, II pair, femur, dorsal, 2-2, prolateral, 1, heavier than on I femur, tibia, 2-2-2-2, metatarsus, 2, basal, IV metatarsus, ventral, 14 short spines, (fig. 2) much shorter and heavier than the lateral spines; *palpus* (fig. 1) about as long as the cephalothorax, pale, with the terminal joint much darker, patella as long as wide, tibia about three times as long as wide, but not as long as the cymbium, with two short dark dorsal cusps at the tip, the dorsal cusp short and straight, the retrolateral cusp longer, more slender with the tip incurved, the tip of the slender process from the cymbium resting between the two, palpal organ confined to the lower two-thirds of the cymbium, bulb protruding from the cavity, embolus starts on the side about the middle, passes below the bulb as a slender tube and ends on the margin about opposite to the origin.

The eggs are flesh-color, about 0.5 mm. in diameter, in a compact mass, loosely enclosed in a thin transparent cocoon.

♀ Massachusetts; Cambridge, 26 July, 1949, (Chickering)

♂ Massachusetts; Cambridge, in museum, 18 July, 1947, (Bryant)

♂ Massachusetts; Brookline, 27 July, 1947, (Bryant)

♂ ♀ New York; New Rochelle, June, 1947, (Lacy)

The male of *Cheiracanthium mildei* is easily separated from that of *C. inclusum* by several characters. The tibia of the palpus of *mildei* has two short processes at the tip, while *inclusum* has one long process which interlocks with a similar process from the cymbium; *mildei* has on the fourth metatarsus a ventral row of short black spines that are very conspicuous; and on the second femur the pro-lateral spine from a raised base is much smaller than on *inclusum*. The females can be separated by the epigyna. In *mildei* the area is divided by a dark transverse bar, while in *inclusum*, the epigynum is an oval transverse pit which shows no structure.

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NEW SYNONYMY IN THE ARMY ANT GENUS *AENICTUS*
SCHUCKARD.—*Aenictus deuqueti* Crawley (1923, Ent. Rec.,
35:177, worker) is a **new synonym** of *Aenictus turneri* For-
el (1900, Ann. Soc. Ent. Belg., 44:75, worker). I compared
types of Forel's and Crawley's species in the British Muse-
um. Crawley's distinctions are inconsequential or else, as
in the case of the color, inaccurately described. — W. L.
BROWN, JR., Museum of Comparative Zoology.